ORIGINAL

FORMAL COMPLAINT

TLLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

May || 9 16 AM '00

OFFICIAL FILE ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

Has your complaint filed with that office been closed?

Illinois Commerce Commission 527 East Capitol Avenue Post Office Box 19280 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9280

			For Commission Use Only:
Regarding a co	mplaint		Case <u>00-0345</u>
by	Ernest R. Wish		Case OO OOTO
	(Person making the complaint)		
against	Ameritech (Utility name)		
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
as to	an improper billing		
in	(Reaspn for complaint) Chicago	Illinois.	
TO THE ILLING	DIS COMMERCE COMMISSION, SPRINGFIEI	LD,ILLINOIS:	
My mailing ad	dress is 1170 N. Milwauk		
The service ad	dress that I am complaining about is	0 N. State Street	
		inois	
My hama tala			
	phone number is [773] 889 8133		
Between 8:30	a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays I can be read		
	Ameritech (Full name of utility company)	(respondent) is a pu	blic utility and is subject to the provisions of
the Illinois Pul	blic Utilities Act.		
In the space b	pelow, list the specific section of the law, Co	ommission rule(s), or utility	tariffs which you think are involved with yo
complaint.			
,			
Have you co	ntacted the Consumer Affairs Division of	the Illinois Commerce Co	mmission about X YesNo
this complain			•

Please state your complaint briefly. Number each of the paragraphs. Please include any specific time period and dollar amounts involved with your complaint. Use an extra sheet of paper, if needed.

- 1. When establishing a telephone number for my son at his new apartment, I inquired of the Ameritech employee as to whether the phone could be restricted to local calls only. I was assured by the employee that Michael would not be able to make any long distance calls. Had this assurance not been given to me the phone would not have been established.
- 2. It is important to know that my son is an alcoholic who cannot function properly when he is under the influence of alcohol. In fact, within a few weeks of the beginning of the billing period involved Michael had to be institutionalized. He was taken to Alina Lodge located in New Jersey in mid-November and stayed there for five months after which he was taken to Philips House in mid-April 2000 also located in New Jersey to continue his treatment. (See continuation.)

employee who took my order, which was about \$8.00 and (2) review their customer

Please clearly state what you want the Commission to do in this case of the amount promised by their Afficiation (1) reduce the subject of ling to the amount promised by their

complaint procedure to make them more customer friendly. April 28, 2000 Date: Complainant's signature If you will be represented by an attorney, please give the attorney's name, address, and telephone number. You need to file the original and three copies of this form with the Commission and also provide the Commission one copy for each utility complained about (referred to as respondents). **VERIFICATION** A notary public must watch you fill out this part of the form. , first being duly sworn, say that I have read the above petition and know what it says. The contents of this petition are true to the best of my knowledge.

"OFFICIAL SEAL"

Notary Public, Allinois

Notary Public, State of Illinois

My Commission Expires 03/04/03

Failure to answer all of the questions on this form may result in this form being returned to you without processing. If you have questions, please call the counselor in the Consumer Affairs Division that handled your informal complaint.

- 3. My son Michael has been a substance abuser for over two decades and I have had numerous experiences involving his actions when under the influence of alcohol. Giving him unlimited use of a telephone would be the equivalent of giving a prisoner on death row a loaded machine gun. Nothing good could result in either case.
- 4. During my telephone conversation with the Ameritech employee who took the order I asked several times for assurance that Michael could not make a long distance call from the telephone number we were discussing. He gave me positive assurance that a complete long distance block would be placed on the telephone. It is interesting to observe that Michael made 30 calls which were one minute or less and 33 calls which were longer than one minute but two minutes or shorter. That is a total of 63 calls at an average cost which is probably in excess of \$10.00 per minute. The vast majority of these calls were made to other cities in the mid-west.
- 5. It appears clear that I would have insisted on a long distance block under the circumstances described above. Thus far I have been unable to communicate with Ameritech (see paragraph following). Had I have been able to discuss the matter with them I would have asked for them to produce the order form. Certainly, the employee taking the order would have made some notation on the form since I insisted on this blocking feature several times. Ameritech should also provide the name of this person and produce him for appropriate questioning.
- 6. I have also asked the Commission to order Ameritech to review their customer complaint procedures. The following documents are enclosed:
 - a. My letter to Ameritech dated November 17, 1999 which enclosed a copy of their November 4, 1999 billing and requesting an opportunity to discuss the matter with an Ameritech representative.
 - b. A duplicate copy of my November 17, 1999, letter along with their billing dated December 14, 1999.
 - c. My letter to Ameritech dated January 7, 2000 along with their then most recent notice again requesting that someone call me.
 - d. My letter to Ameritech dated January 11, 2000 along with their final notice and once again asking for an opportunity to discuss the matter.
 - e. My letter to OSI Collection Services dated February 16, 2000 along with their demand for payment dated February 8, 2000. (I later spoke by phone with one of their representatives who stated that they would send no further letters since I was disputing the charge and filing a formal complaint with the Illinois Commerce Commission.)

- f. My letter to OSI Collection Services dated April 14, 2000 along with their request for payment dated April 5, 2000. (It is interesting to note that this request for payment was made after Ameritech was made aware of my intention to file the complaint. In fact I requested mediation which they declined. This appears to be another evidence of Ameritech's unwillingness to discuss matters directly with their customers.)
- g. Three dunning notices dated April 13 and 14 (all post marked on April 17 and received by me on the same day) from OSI Collection Services. Please know that statements made by them such as "you have failed to keep your agreement" and "you have broken your promises" are not true.

WISH RESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT

ERNEST R. WISH CHAIRMAN 1170 N. MILWAUKEE AVE. CHICAGO, IL. 60622

> TELEPHONE (773) 772-7060 FAX (773) 772-2855

> > November 17, 1999

Ameritech P.O. Box 4520 Carol Stream, Illinois 60197-4520

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a copy of the November 4, 1999 bill for telephone 312-640-1026. A few months ago I established this number for use by my son at his apartment. It was clearly understood when I activated the number that no long distance calls would allowed. I was given assurance by your representative that the number would be appropriately blocked so that no long distance calls could be made from the number. As you can see from the billing, multiple calls were made by my son which were unauthorized by me.

My wife has discussed the matter with one of your account representatives who offered a 25% discount from the total amount billed. I do not believe that this is adequate under the circumstances. For instance it is my understanding that my son was able to make these calls by going through an operator. Of course, we would have done much better in terms of pricing had he made the calls directly. A good example would be a charge of \$10.14 (multiple calls) for a 1 minute call to Minneapolis.

In my opinion, this bill is preposterous!

I would appreciate the appropriate person contacting me in order to resolve the matter. I can be reached at 773-772-7060.

Sincerely,

Ernest R. Wish

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Long Distance - Continued

Page 3 of 4
Account Number 312 640-1026 015 8
Billing Date Nov 4, 1999

Questions? 1-800-222-0300

Important Information

This portion of your bill is provided as a service to the company identified above. Please review all charges appearing in this section. If you have any questions or concerns, call the telephone number shown above.

Current Charges

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68 10-15 945P PITTSBURGH PA 412 665-4020 ES 8	14.27
69 10-16 930A PITTSBURGH PA 412 255-2292 NS 3	11.32
70 10-18 934A PITTSBURGH PA 412 255-2927 NS 4	11.91
71 10-18 459P EXCELSIOR MM 612 474-2323 DSM 2	10.73 💃
72 10-22 1047P BROOKLYN NY 718 921-6274 ES 2	10.73
73 10-22 1112P PITTSBURGH PA 412 231-9208 NS 2	10.73
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77 10-23 912A MINNEAPOLS MN 812 559-4213 NS 83	48.72
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79 10-23 1148A HINNEAPOLS MN 812 559-4213 NS 1	10.14
80 10-23 106P MINNEAPOLS MN 812 559-4213 NS 1	10.14
81 10-23 117P MINNEAPOLS MN 812 559-4213 NS 2	10.73
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O Box 4520 sol Stram, solini 60197-4520 D signically call me soon 792-7060). Very Luly your

WISH RESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT

ERNEST R. WISH CHAIRMAN 1170 N. MILWAUKEE AVE. CHICAGO, IL. 60622

> TELEPHONE (773) 772-7060 FAX (773) 772-2855

> > November 17, 1999

Ameritech
P.O. Box 4520
Carol Stream, Illinois 60197-4520

DUPLICATE

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a copy of the November 4, 1999 bill for telephone 312-640-1026. A few months ago I established this number for use by my son at his apartment. It was clearly understood when I activated the number that no long distance calls would allowed. I was given assurance by your representative that the number would be appropriately blocked so that no long distance calls could be made from the number. As you can see from the billing, multiple calls were made by my son which were unauthorized by me.

My wife has discussed the matter with one of your account representatives who offered a 25% discount from the total amount billed. I do not believe that this is adequate under the circumstances. For instance it is my understanding that my son was able to make these calls by going through an operator. Of course, we would have done much better in terms of pricing had he made the calls directly. A good example would be a charge of \$10.14 (multiple calls) for a 1 minute call to Minneapolis.

In my opinion, this bill is preposterous!

I would appreciate the appropriate person contacting me in order to resolve the matter. I can be reached at 773-772-7060.

Sincerely,

Ernest R. Wish

encl



ERNEST R WISH 2722 N MERRIMAC CHICAGO, IL 60639-1018 Page 1 of 2 Account Number 312 640-1026 015 8

Billing Date Dec 4, 1999

Web Site www.ameritech.com

Monthly Statement Nov 5 - Dec 4, 1999

Total Amount Due	.48CR \$1,112.71	
Current Charges		
Amount Past Due	1,113.19	
Adjustments	335.49CR	
Payment	.00.	
Previous Bill	1,448.68	
Bill-At-A-Glance		

Current Charges Due Upon Receipt

FINAL BILL

Billing Summary

Questions? Call:

Ameritech Local Service .48CR 1-800-424-7272

Total of Current Charges .48CR

Ameritech Values

Ameritech Local Service Savings

.11

Savings details are reflected within your bill.

Detail of Payments and Adjustments

Item		
No. Date Description	Adjustments	Payments
1 11-15 Long Distance Co Adj-AT&T	342.31CR	
2 11-15 Long Distance Co Adj-AT&T	6.82	•
Totals	335.49CR	.00

Ameritech Local Service

Local Calls	
Direct Dialed Calls	
0-8 Miles	
30 Call(s) at Day Rate	1.50
11 Call(s) at 10% Evening Discount Applied	.50
31 Call(s) at 40% Night/Wknd Discount Applied	.93
Over 8 Miles	
1 Initial Minutes - Day Rate	.05
2 Additional Minutes during Day Rate	.03
2 Initial Minutes - 10% Evening Discount Applied	.09
4 Additional Minutes - 10% Evening Discount Applied	.05
3 Initial Minutes - 40% Night/Wknd Discount Applied	.09
7 Addl Minutes - 40% Night/Wknd Discount Applied	.06

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AT 01 037098 57908H122 A**3DGT ERNEST R WISH 2722 N MERRIMAC CHICAGO, IL 60639-1018

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To your obrion continue con

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February 16, Voc 051 Collection Services dus 1375 East Woodfiel Roal Schammburg, Allinois 60173-5447 Guttomen:

your Damond for famue (was

recined today: This letter is

provided to Odisp to the validity

of the Date.

The land is evidence of attempts

made by me to community with

amoritech all to no avail. I mould prefer to may your early response is necessary. they your

DEMAND FOR PAYMENT

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED 1936037 (070)002.298 1375 EAST WOODFIELD RD SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173-5447

BY OSI Collection Services, Inc.

... A Collection Agency

File Number: 1936037

Mail Your Payment To:

08956

OSI Collection Services, Inc.

P.O. BOX 959 BROOKFIELD, WI 53008-0959

ERNEST R WISH 2722 N MERRIMAC AVE CHICAGO IL 60639-1018

February 8, 2000

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO INSURE PROPER CREDIT

Your Creditor: AMERITECH

Account:

312 640-1026 015 8

Amount: \$1112.71

TOTAL DUE: \$1112.71

Phone: 847-605-9400

THIS IS A DEMAND FOR FULL PAYMENT OF YOUR DEBT

Your seriously past due account has been given to us for immediate attention. You have had ample time to pay your debt. You have not. If there is a valid reason, as explained on the reverse side of this letter, we suggest you contact us.

If not - PAY US.

HOUSE ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVE Extension: 5035

NOTICE: SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DUN901/3D180PA001 DUNA01 P8CNWU01

april 14 2000 OSI Collection Services Inc. P.O. Box 959 Brookfield Wis 53008-0959 Gentlamen Re: 7e# 312-640-1026-015-8
File# 1936037 Please be advised that I am complaint with the Deline Commerce umission regarding amounts in Dispte with ameritach. Place cease with me until the couplaint los the Commission processed by Very lady your Tenen R. Which per the Consumer Services Divinion.

PRIORITY COMMUNICATION

FROM OSI Collection Services, Inc.

1936037 (003)002.105 1375 EAST WOODFIELD RD SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173-5447

...A Collection Agency

Client Account #: 312 640-1026 015 8

File Number: 1936037

Mail Your Payment To:

01300

Malladladidadlaalllaadladaddaldald

OSI Collection Services, Inc. P.O. BOX 959

BROOKFIELD, WI 53008-0959

ERNEST R WISH 2722 N MERRIMAC AVE CHICAGO IL 60639-1018

April 5, 2000

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO INSURE PROPER CREDIT

Your Creditor: AMERITECH

Ñ

Account:

312 640-1026 015 8

Amount: \$1112.71

TOTAL DUE: \$1112.71

Phone: 847-605-9400

Your promise to pay \$1112.71 is accepted, provided

we receive it by 04/15/00.

Your payment arrangement is acceptable for a limited period of time and is subject to periodic review and modification.

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT.

ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

DUN902/UD170PA001 DUNA09

P8CNWU01

PRIORITY COMMUNICATION

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED 1936037 (201)002.105 1375 EAST WOODFIELD RD SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173-5447 BY OSI Collection Services, Inc.

File Number: 1936037

Mail Your Payment To:

00546

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OSI Collection Services, Inc. P.O. BOX 959

BROOKFIELD, WI 53008-0959

ERNEST R WISH 2722 N MERRIMAC AVE CHICAGO IL 60639-1018

April 14, 2000

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO INSURE PROPER CREDIT

Your Creditor: Account: 312 640-1026 015 8

Amount: \$1112.71 TOTAL DUE: \$1112.71

Phone: 847-605-9400

CURRENT BALANCE: \$ 1112.71

We are offering you the opportunity to settle your delinquent account.

Your pre-approved settlement amount of \$945.80 must be received no later than 04/29/2000. To take advantage of this limited time offer please send your payment along with this notice in the enclosed envelope.

If you have any questions, please call us at the above number.

NOTICE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DUN902/3D190PA002 DUNA01 P8CNWU01

DEMAND FOR PAYMENT

BY OSI Collection Services, Inc.

1936037 (146)002.105 1375 EAST WOODFIELD RD SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173-5447

...A Collection Agency

File Number: 1936037

Mail Your Payment To:

00545

OSI Collection Services, Inc. P.O. BOX 959

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BROOKFIELD, WI 53008-0959

ERNEST R WISH 2722 N MERRIMAC AVE CHICAGO IL 60639-1018

April 14, 2000

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO INSURE PROPER CREDIT

Your Creditor: Account: 312 640—1026 015 8

Amount: \$1112.71

TOTAL DUE NOW: \$1112.71

Phone: 847-605-9400

You have failed to keep your agreement.

Your payment was due today!

You have broken your promise.

If your intentions are sincere, and we believe they are, you will pay us immediately.

We have been more than cooperative.

Please follow through to prevent further collection action.

NOTICE: SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DUN901/3D190PA002 DUNA01 P8CNWU01

PRIORITY COMMUNICATION

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED 1936037 (201)002.105 1375 EAST WOODFIELD RD SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173-5447 BY OSI Collection Services, Inc.

File Number: 1936037

Mail Your Payment To:

00544

OSI Collection Services, Inc. P.O. BOX 959

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BROOKFIELD, WI 53008-0959

ERNEST R WISH 2722 N MERRIMAC AVE CHICAGO IL 60639-1018

April 13, 2000

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO INSURE PROPER CREDIT

Your Creditor: AMERITECH Account: 312 640-1026 015 8

Amount: \$1112.71

TOTAL DUE: \$1112.71

Phone: 847-605-9400

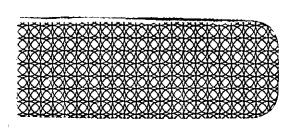
CURRENT BALANCE: # 1112.71

We are offering you the opportunity to settle your delinquent account.

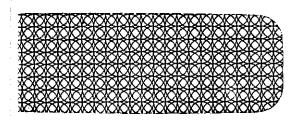
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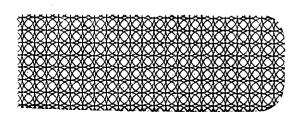
NOTICE: SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION



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